

Summary Record of NSC Executive Committee Meeting No. 23,
November 8, 1962 -- 4:30 PM

A press release was revised and approved for the Defense Department to issue, copy attached.

The problem of long-term surveillance requirements was discussed. A paper by Mr. Nitze was circulated. Another surveillance paper will be prepared covering three contingencies:

- a. The missiles are out and we obtain satisfactory on-the-ground inspection.
- b. The missiles are out but we do not obtain satisfaction on ground inspection.
- c. The missiles and the IL-28 bombers are taken out.

There followed discussion on how pressure could be kept on Cuba without continuing the quarantine. None of the suggestions were quick acting. A proposal was made to ask the allies to put the maximum pressure on Castro so as to avoid a situation in which we would be retaliating for a shoot-down of one of our reconnaissance planes. Ambassador Thompson urged that we keep the maximum amount of flexibility until Khrushchev replies to our last letter and until the Mikoyan talks with Castro in Havana are completed.

The President said the key issue is whether we lift the quarantine if the IL-28 bombers don't come out. Do we resume the quarantine and stop Soviet ships if we don't get the bombers out? He thought we would know more in twenty-four hours about what we should do. He was inclined not to reimpose the quarantine, but he did favor pressure on our allies to keep their ships out of Cuba.

Secretary Rusk suggested that two courses be studied. The first, reimposition of the quarantine, and the second, covert actions against Castro.

Five U-2 flights and ten low-level flights were authorized for tomorrow. Secretary McNamara reported that there was no reaction to today's flights, but the weather had been bad, i.e., clouds had obscured the targets.

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By V. M. Smith

NARS, Date 10/9/94

Bromley Smith

Confidential until released

November 8, 1962

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

The U. S. Government has confirmed, through aerial reconnaissance, that Medium Range Ballistic Missile and Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile equipment is being removed from Cuba in partial fulfillment of the commitment made by Chairman Khrushchev to President Kennedy. Beginning today, it expects to obtain additional confirmation through the close alongside observation of Soviet vessels by U. S. naval vessels. Soviet vessels are cooperating in this procedure.

As a result of aerial reconnaissance, the U. S. has photographs which indicate that all known MRBM and IRBM missile bases in Cuba have been dismantled. Later photographs indicate the movement of significant items of equipment from the missile sites to port areas. Still later photographs give evidence that a substantial number of missile transporters have been loaded onto the main decks of certain Soviet cargo vessels and that several of these vessels have already departed Cuban ports. Photographs and visual inspection from U. S. naval vessels will provide further confirmation that the actual missiles (normally carried in the missile transporters that have been photographed on board these vessels) have left Cuba.

Intensive discussions are continuing with respect to the other provisions of the commitment. These are being hampered by the refusal thus far of the Cuban Government to cooperate with the United Nations in order that it may carry out the necessary measures of verification.

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By ENR NARS, Date 10/9/84